



POLAND



INTRODUCTION

Poland's history as a state began near the middle of the 10th century. By the mid-16th century, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth ruled a vast tract of land in Central and Eastern Europe. During the 18th century, internal disorders weakened the nation, and in a series of agreements between 1772 and 1795, Russia, Prussia, and Austria partitioned Poland among themselves. Poland became a Soviet satellite state following World War II. Free elections in 1989 and 1990 brought the communist era to a close.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Andrzej DUDA

Head of Government

Prime Minister Mateusz MORAWIECKI

Government Type

parliamentary republic

Capital

Warsaw

Legislature

bicameral legislature consists of the Senate or Senat (100 seats) and the Sejm (460 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 312,685 sq km

Land: 304,255 sq km

Water: 8,430 sq km

Climate

temperate with cold, cloudy, moderately severe winters with frequent precipitation; mild summers with frequent showers and thundershowers

Natural Resources

coal, sulfur, copper, natural gas, silver, lead, salt, amber, arable land

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

diversified, high-growth European economy; COVID-19 led to first recession in nearly 3 decades, albeit small; EU and NATO member; bolstering US relations; economic concentration in western region; aging labor force; growing debt

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1.223 trillion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$32,200 (2020 est.)

Industries - machine building, iron, steel, coal mining, chemicals, shipbuilding, food processing, glass, beverages, textiles

Agricultural products - milk, sugar beets, wheat, potatoes, triticale, maize, barley, apples, mixed grains, rye

Exports \$333.5 billion (2020 est.)

Cars/vehicle parts, seats, furniture, computers, video displays (2019)

partners: Germany 27%, Czechia 6%, UK 6%, France 6%, Italy 5% (2019)

Imports \$292.4 billion (2020 est.)

cars/vehicle parts, crude petroleum, packaged medicines, broadcasting equipment, office machinery/parts (2019)

partners: Germany 25%, China 10%, Italy 5%, Netherlands 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

38.2 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

-0.23% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Polish 96.9%, Silesian

1.1%, German 0.2%,

Ukrainian 0.1%, other and unspecified 1.7% (2011 est.)

Language

Polish (official) 98.2%, Silesian 1.4%, other 1.1%, unspecified 1.3% (2011 est.)

Religion

Catholic 85.9%, Orthodox 1.3% (almost all are Polish Autocephalous Orthodox), Protestant 0.4%, other 0.4% (includes Jehovah's Witness, Buddhist, Hare Krishna, Gaudiya Vaishnavism, Muslim, Jewish, Church of Jesus Christ), unspecified 12.1% (2017 est.)

